

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 211510 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5157
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0729

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, CEAO, DM, NG

SUBJ: NIGER PRESIDENT DIORI VISITS DAHOMEY MAY 17

ADDIS ABABA FOR DUNCAN

REF: NIAMEY 1447

1. PRESIDENT DIORI, ACCOMPAINED BY WIFE, TWO MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND CEAO SECRETARY GENERAL FALL, WERE MET ON ARRIVAL FOR 24- HOUR VISIT BY PRESIDENT KEREKOU, MEMBERS OF MRGD AND NIGERIAN COLONY. IN AIRPORT REMARKS TO PRESS, DIORI MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

(A) EMERGENCY FOODAID TO NIGER - PROFOUND THANKS TO MRGD FOR EFFORTS IN SHIPPING GRAIN (COTONOU 0722 NOTAL).

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(B) CEAO - CEAO SUMMIT AT ABIDJAN BEGINNING OF EFFORT OF FOURTEEN WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY. THIS WILL SUCCEED AS AFRICAN COUNTRIES DETERMINED TO WORK TOGETHER IN LARGER ORGANIZATION. POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE WILL ONLY BECOME A REALITY WITH ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE. THEREFORE NECESSARY TO ORGANIZE A COMPLEMENTARY SOLIDARITY BETWEEN INLAND AND COASTAL STATES.

(C) DAHOMEY'S POSITION ON CEAO - DAHOMEY PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN DISCUSSIONS AT ABIDJAN. ITS RESERVES ON THIS OCCASION WERE JUSTIFIED. WHAT ONE SHOULD REMEMBER WAS UNANIMOUS DESIRE OF WEST AFRICAN STATES TO SUCCEED IN CREATING AN ORGANIZATION AT SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL.

(D) LIBYAN ULTIMATUM RE TRANSFER OF OAU HEADQUARTERS TO CAIRO - LIBYAN PRESIDENT HAS RIGHT TO JUDGE QUESTION OF EXTENT OF AFRICAN SUPPORT TO EGYPT AND PALESTINIANS AS HE SEE FIT. TRANSFER OF OAU SEAT, HOWEVER, CANNOT SATISFY PROBLEM POSED BY COLONEL QADHAFI. HERE DIRORI EXPRESSED DEFINITE RESERVE BECAUSE OF PRESTIGE OF EMPEROR AND WEIGHT ETHIOPIA CARRIES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE LIBERATION OF AFRICA.

(E) ATTENDANCE AT OAU ANNIVERSARY - IF CALENDAR PERMITS HIS ATTENDANCE, HE WOULD PUT ACCENT ABOVE ALL ON AFRICAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND ON NECESSITY OF ORGANIZING GREATEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION AMONG LARGE REGIONAL GROUPINGS OF WEST, EAST AND NORTH AFRICA.

(F) WEST AFRICAN MONETARY UNION - WILL BE DISCUSSING IN PARIS AT END OF MONTH REFORM, REVISION AND NEW ORIENTATION OF UNION.

2. DAHO- EXPRESS EDITORIAL OF MAY 18 REITERATED MRGD POSITION AT ABIDJAN AND CONFIRMED IT WOULD REMAIN OBSERVER ONLY OF CEAO AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, EVEN AFTER VISIT OF PRESIDENT DIORI.

3. IN NEW REVOLUTIONARY SETTING CALLING FOR COLLEGIAL APPROACH, THERE WAS NO TETE- A- TETES BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS WITH ALL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. NIGER PERMREP TOLD US VISIT " WAS NOT TO BAD", BUT WITH EVERYONE LISTENING
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IN IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH MUCH BUSINESS. HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM CONAKRY PILGRIMAGE, AND NOW PREOCCUPIED WITH JUDGEMENT ON FEBRUARY 29 ALLEGED COUP D' ETAT, MRGD LEADERSHIP NOT PREPARED FOR SERIOUS TALKS WITH DIORI, NOR DID THEY PARTICULARLY WELCOME HIS VISIT AT THIS TIME. ONE INCIDENT THAT DID NOT IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE WAS DIORI INSISTENCE ON PRESENCE OF HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY AT MEETINGS TO TAKE MINUTES AND HAVE THEM REPRODUCED

FOR BOTH SIDES. WHEN MRGD FOUND OUT SECRETARY WAS EFFICIENT,
27- YEAR OLD FRENCH WOMAN, THEY SHUDDERED.
ANDERSON

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NMAFVVZCZ

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